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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

ROBERT JOSEPH STATZ

CASE NO.: AD6731 US NA

SERIAL NO.: 09/558,894

GROUP ART UNIT: 1712

FILED: APRIL 27, 2000

EXAMINER: DAVID J. BUTTNER

FOR: HIGHLY NEUTRALIZED ETHYLENE COPOLYMERS

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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FEB 19 2002

TC 1700

Sir:

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated October 29, 2001.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 7 to read as follows:

A1 SUB
C17
1 (amended). A thermoplastic composition that is melt-processable consisting essentially of (a) aliphatic, mono-functional organic acid(s) having fewer than 36 carbon atoms; and (b) ethylene, C₃ to C₈ α,β ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid copolymer(s), wherein greater than 90% of all the acid of (a) and (b) is neutralized.

7 (amended). A process to make a highly-neutralized, melt-processable ethylene copolymer comprising the steps of

A2 SUB
B17
(a) Melt-blending an ethylene α,β ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid copolymer or a melt-processable ionomer thereof with an organic acid or a salt of organic acid, and

(b) concurrently or subsequently adding sufficient cation source to neutralize more than 90% of all the acid moieties of the acid copolymer or ionomer thereof and the organic acid or salt thereof.

All other claims remain unchanged other than as they are dependent on claim 1 or claim 7.

REMARKS

The Claims were amended to overcome the non-art objections and rejections taking into consideration the points made by the examiner.